

DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Meeting of the Parish Council held in The Church Rooms, New Street on
Wednesday 9th October 2024 at 7.00 pm.**

Present: Cllrs R Hufton (Chair), H Fisher, R Hopkins, L Jolley, R Mason, I McNulty, J Shepherd, D Slade and J Welcher. Cllr M Davis (FDC representative) and the Clerk, Roger Wilkin were present.

1. Open Forum: - No residents were present.

2. Apologies: - Apologies were received from Cllr D Connor (FDC and CCC Representative)

3. Declaration of Interests:- No declarations were received.

4. Minutes: - Cllr Hopkins proposed and Cllr Mason seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on the 18th September 2024 be approved. These were agreed by the members which were then signed by the Chair.

5. Matters arising from previous minutes:-

- a) Community Living Room. Members were advised that the weekly Friday sessions were very popular with a steady number of visitors attending. A representative from Tesco attended a Friday session and handed over a charity collection of £294 in cash which will be used to finance a Christmas event. A representative from Blackfield Creatives is planning on attending a session to provide information on their work.
- b) The Chair updated members on the work that had been started by FDC on replacing the dead rose bushes around the war memorial.

6. Administrative Items:-

- a) The Clerk advised members that a contract was being prepared with the Oasis Group on the work that they would be undertaking on providing digital copies of the handwritten Council minutes.
- b) Members considered adopting updated versions to the following Parish Council Policies: Complaint Policy, proposed and seconded by Cllrs Mason and Jolley
Tree Policy, proposed and seconded by Cllrs Welcher and Slade
Both policies were unanimously agreed by the members. Arrangements would be made to upload the documents onto the Council's website.
- c) The Clerk advised members that CAPALC were organising 4 separate planning webinars on 28th October. Some interest was shown but clarification of the sessions timings was required.
- d) Members considered a request from the Chair and Clerk that the Council's existing desk top computer and A4 colour printer needed upgrading. The Clerk provided details of suitable replacement machines and members authorised their purchase. The total cost would be in the region of £1,000.

7. Police Matters:

Members noted that the next meeting of the Police and Councillor committee was taking place tomorrow. Members reported that suspected drug sales were taking place in Fenton Way, Chatteris and at the Abbey Rec car park.

8. Fenland DC, CCC and other external organisation matters:-

- a) Cllr Davis informed the meeting that FDC was considering a motion requiring that meat offered for sale should be labelled with the method used for slaughter.
- b) The Clerk had received a notice from FDC that they were introducing tougher penalties for littering, flyposting, fly tipping and for residents handing waste to unauthorised carriers who dump it.
- c) The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority had published a revised date for the bus franchising consultation. The Fenland event was now due to take place on 23rd October 2024 and the Chair indicated that she was prepared to attend.

9. Highway Issues: -

- a) The following works were reported as needing attention:
 - i. Pot holes are outside 1,3,4 and 13 Burdett Close. Historically they had been marked with yellow paint which is now very faint.
 - ii Lavender bushes outside 35 High Street are encroaching over the footway.
 - iii. The hedge near Askham needs cutting back.
- b) LHI 2023/2024. CCC is still to advise on the start date for works to resurface the footway in Benwick Road which was originally scheduled for September 2024.
- c) LHI 2024/2025. Results from the October 2024 Highways & Transportation Committee showed that Doddington was not successful in securing funding for the resurfacing of the footway on the north side of High Street.
- d) 20mph funding initiative for 2024/2025. Results from the October 2024 Highways & Transportation Committee showed that Doddington was not successful in securing funding for converting Ingles Lane to a 20mph speed limit.
- e) Grass cutting. The Chair reported that no further progress had been agreed on receiving a refund of costs incurred in cutting the village Circular Walk.

10. Fens Reservoir Project:-

- a) The next Fens Reservoir Liaison meeting is scheduled to take place in Doddington Village Hall on 23rd October 2024.

11. Planning:-

a) New planning applications:

- i. F/YR24/0773/F Erect a detached timber office/storage outbuilding at front of existing dwelling (retrospective) at 27A Newgate Street Doddington.
Members objected to this planning application on the grounds that a large wooden building in front of the building line is detrimental to the street scene and that should permission be granted, it could create a precedence within the village. It is believed that the building is being used full time as a business office and this raises the question on whether this could require a change of use.

b) Other planning matters:

- i. Members were informed that an appeal had been lodged against FDC's decision to refuse to grant planning permission over planning application F/YR24/0400/F, various extensions at 1 May Meadows Doddington.
- ii. The meeting was informed that FDC were undertaking a consultation on what future requirements are needed to support the submission of planning applications. Members welcomed the review as it will improve the validation of applications in an efficient manner.

- iii. The Chair presented the first entries on the recently introduced Planning Monitoring Spreadsheet. Future updates would be circulated to members on a routine basis.
- iv. FDC Local Plan. No further information had been received from FDC
- v. Doddington Neighbourhood Plan Group. The first draft of the Neighbourhood Plan was ready to be reviewed by the Parish Council and it was agreed that a number of meetings be arranged to consider the report.

12. Abbey Recreation Ground:-

a) Refurbishment of the Pavilion:

Further quotations were presented to members for approval:

1. Internal decorations,

AE & EA Hudson Ltd	£5,470 plus VAT
Jax Property Maintenance	£7,850
Odd Job Ben Handyman	£3,580

Proposed by Cllr. Mason, seconded by Cllr. Hopkins that Odd Job Ben Handyman's quotation be accepted which was unanimously agreed by members. Members also agreed that the proportion within the quotation for the cost of materials at £780 be paid upfront. A provisional start date for the works was noted at mid November.

2. Replace the internal flooring. One quotation had been submitted from Contract Flooring Services at £2,597 plus VAT. Members noted that there was a potential saving of £353 if the flooring in the rear changing room was repaired rather than being relaid. It had not been possible to obtain any further quotations and it was therefore proposed by Cllr. Jolley, seconded by Cllr. Hopkins that the quotation from Contract Flooring Services at £2,597 plus VAT be accepted which was unanimously agreed by members.

3. Replace and relay the external paving slabs. The quotation submitted at the last meeting from JC Gardens & Landscaping at £1,950 was reviewed. Cllr. Welcher proposed and Cllr. Shepherd seconded that the quotation from JC Gardens & Landscaping be accepted which was unanimously agreed by members. It was also agreed that additional slabs be laid to provide an easy access for wheelchair users to the disabled gym piece of equipment.

4. Other works.

It was agreed to seek an additional quotation from Odd Job Ben Maintenance for replacing the kitchen units and to also ask him if he would provide a quotation to box in the area under the changing room benches down to the floor to make it easier for the new flooring to be laid.

The Chair proposed a vote of thanks to Cllrs. McNulty and Mason for their work in demolishing and removing the storage units in the main room.

b) Additional recreational facilities. The outside gym equipment, approved at the last meeting, was installed over the 3rd & 4th October. Initial reaction from residents was very good although there was some concern over the siting of the disabled unit piece as wheelchair users were having difficulty in accessing the equipment as it was on a slight slope. It was agreed that Fresh Air Fitness revisit the site and suggest how the equipment can be made more user friendly.

Cllr. Shepherd offered to undertake the routine maintenance inspection of the gym equipment.

c) Cllr. Mason had used his flail hedge mover and cut back the overhanging brambles, undergrowth and low branches around the boundary of the ground.

13. Benwick Road Cemetery: -

No matters were raised.

14. Street Lighting:-

UKPN are due to attend to the power supply to FPC6 outside 11A Benwick Road.

15. Village Maintenance: -

- a) All works to the Bier House have been completed
- b) It was agreed to continue discussions with the directors of the local management committee over the future maintenance of the Crossway Wood & Pond.

16. Website and Communications:-

The Council's web master was investigating some teething issues following the migration of the web site and individual web addresses to .gov.uk

17. Financial Items:-

- a) The Clerk reported that the Internal Auditor was undertaking an interim audit of the Councils financial affairs on 14th November 2024.

b) Payments:

It was agreed that on-line BACs transfers be made on the schedule prepared by the Clerk and certified by two authorised bank mandate members of the Parish Council:-

Doddington Scout Group	Litter picking	100.00
Npower Commercial Gas Ltd	Street lighting electricity	357.34
Eon Next	Abbey Pavilion electricity	41.58
JC Gardens & Landscaping	Grass cutting Cemetery & Abbey Rec	450.00
CAPALC	Training fees	75.00
Royal British Legion	Poppy wreath	24.49
Clear Councils Insurance	Additional cost for change in sum insured	29.25
Hugh Harris T/A Fresh Air Fitness	New outside gym	17,570.40
R Wilkin	Clerks net salary	960.54
HMR&C	Income Tax on Clerks salary	240.14
Newgate Developments Ltd	Bier House repairs	1,080.00
Odd Job Ben Maintenance	Materials for painting of Pavilion	780.00

18. Correspondence:

Lithium-ion Battery Safety Bill. The Clerk reported that a request had been received requesting the Parish Council support the introduction of a suitable bill in Parliament. Members agreed to support the request.

19. Any Other Business:

The Chair offered to place the Parish Council wreath at the war memorial on Remembrance Sunday.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10pm.

